

To the Members of the Public Health Committee,

I would like to offer my comments on the 2 bills before your Committee.

S.B. No. 477 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.

The “Commission” this bill will establish is comprised of groups and organizations whose track record is one not of preventing violence but punishing law abiding firearms owners for the actions of criminals. Some of these groups receive the bulk of their funding from persons who wish an unarmed population- one that is subject to their control.

Almost every pro-Second Amendment organization has continuously offered and supported programs to educate young children about the dangers of handling firearms (ex. NRA Eddie Eagle), and help prevent prohibited persons from obtaining firearms (NSSF’s “Don’t Lie for the Other Guy”).

Why are none of these organizations represented on this “Commission”?

H.B. No. 5397 AN ACT DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

What strikes me most about this bill is the use of taxpayer funds to curtail and eliminate a protected right.

It has been painfully obvious for quite some time that the Party currently in power views firearm ownership as an obstacle to their reshaping of this country.

Lawsuits have been or are being filed against the states listed in this bill as having established similar government agencies, as being unconstitutional and a blatant end run around the Federal prohibition against using public funds to promote gun control.

Both of these bills will do nothing to reduce crime or violence. Guns are inanimate objects, incapable of **ANY** action, good or evil, on their own. Lack of enforcement of existing laws, lack of prosecution of violators of these laws, weak sentencing, or decisions not to incarcerate lawbreakers due to concerns about “social justice”, failed social policies that perpetuate poverty in our cities are the reason **PEOPLE** act out and rape, assault, murder.

All the virtue posturing will not address the underlying issues that created the level of violence we are seeing, not just in Connecticut, but across the Country. Punishing criminals and allowing honest citizens the ability and means to protect themselves and their families, eliminating the failed policies of the past several decades and actually investing in our poorer communities, and investing in a sound education- not indoctrination- for all our children will.

Respectfully,
Robert Gaudio
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